

Historic Vessels of Hyde Street Pier

Hyde Street Pier was built in 1922 for automobile ferries between San Francisco and Sausalito. The ferry route was part of U.S. 101 until the Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937.

Today the pier and a number of the historic vessels moored here are open to visitors. Five vessels—*Alma*, *Balclutha*, *Eureka*, *Hercules*, and *C.A. Thayer*—are designated National Historic Landmarks. The pier also has a variety of maritime structures and exhibits. Welcome aboard!



Alma: scow schooner; 59 feet. Built 1891 San Francisco, Calif.



Balclutha: square-rigged ship; 256 feet. Built 1886 Glasgow, Scotland.



Eureka: side-wheel ferry; 299.5 feet. Originally built in 1890 as *Ukiah*, Tiburon, Calif. Refitted 1922 as *Eureka*.



Hercules: steam-powered tug boat; 139 feet. Built 1907 Camden, N.J.



C.A. Thayer: three-masted schooner; 156 feet. Built 1895 Fairhaven, Calif.



Eppleton Hall: steel tug boat; 100.5 feet. Built 1914 South Shields, England.



Small craft moored on the east side of Hyde Street Pier.



School children aboard *Balclutha*. Park rangers lead programs for visitors of all ages.

erous voyage around Cape Horn. Compare the sailors’ bunks in the forecastle to the Captain’s quarters aft. Like the rest of the park’s fleet, *Balclutha* survived because it kept working after other vessels of its class were scuttled.

C.A. Thayer This schooner is representative of hundreds that sailed the Pacific Coast. In Puget Sound ports eight-man crews piled the deck high with Douglas fir, the raw material for California’s cities in the early 1900s. *Thayer* later carried small

boats and fishing crews to Alaska for salmon and cod.

Eppleton Hall This sturdy little tugboat from England crossed the Atlantic under its own power in 1969. “*Eppie*” recalls the earliest days of steam navigation on the bay.

Eureka Originally built to ferry trains across the bay, this vessel was rebuilt in 1922 to serve passengers and automobiles. Don’t miss the classic autos and trucks displayed on the lower deck.

Hercules Imagine a slow trip down the coast, towing a huge log raft and fishing off the stern for your dinner. This workhorse towed big ships out to sea, pushed railroad car barges across the bay, and towed huge lock structures to build the Panama Canal.

Small Craft The park’s boat shop restores these often unheralded, everyday craft used for work and pleasure on the bay: feluccas, Montereys, and yachts.

Library and Collections



Above left: Salmon fishermen on board *Star of Alaska*, ca. 1920s. Above right: The park’s research library. Below: Steamship brochure, 1880s.



Artifacts, scrapbooks, sailors’ crafts, and shipboard machinery—all tell stories about the men and women who created and used them. Read a sailor’s personal journal. Listen to sea chanteys (songs), or an oral history describing a 1906 voyage on the park’s lumber schooner *C.A. Thayer*.

If you are interested in maritime history, the park’s museum collection and Maritime Library are the nation’s premier resource for understanding the maritime heritage of the Pacific Coast.

The park’s extensive collection of artifacts, books, oral histories, photographs, vessel plans, documents, and other archival materials is located in Building E at Fort Mason Center and is available to the public. The library is open by appointment 1 pm to 4 pm Monday through Friday, and on the third Saturday of each month. Call 415-561-7030 to schedule an appointment. More on the park’s collection and library can be found at www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/collections.htm.

PHOTOGRAPHS NPS / TIM CAMPBELL AND STEVE DANFORD

Planning Your Visit

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is served by public transit: call 415-673-MUNI (6864) or visit www.sfmuni.com. Paid parking is nearby. The park is open daily, year-round. The visitor center, pier, and museum are closed Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1.

Visitor Center Located in a historic brick warehouse, home of the Argonaut Hotel, the visitor center offers orientation information to help you plan your visit. “The Waterfront” exhibit takes you back in time along old San Francisco’s working waterfront. Open 9:30 am to 5 pm daily; check for seasonal hours. No admission fee. 415-447-5000.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, programs, and services accessible to all. For information, check at the visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

Hyde Street Pier The pier has historic steam and sailing vessels as well as other maritime exhibits and interpretive demonstrations. Admission fee to board vessels; no fee for pier.

Maritime Museum in the Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building The museum has changing exhibits on West Coast maritime history. The bathhouse was built in 1939 as a joint project of the City of San Francisco and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Spectacular WPA murals cover the lobby walls. Open 10 am to 4 pm daily. There is no admission fee. 415-561-7100.

Aquatic Park Historic District Stroll through the gardens, along the waterfront, or out on Municipal Pier. Watch the cable cars turn around. Visit one of the city’s few urban beaches. Spot boats and birds in the bay—and even swimmers in the cove.

Firearms For firearms regulations, please check the park website or ask at the visitor center.

More Information San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Fort Mason Center, Building E San Francisco, CA 94123 415-447-5000 www.nps.gov/safr Follow us on Facebook

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Visit www.nps.gov.

Visitor center exhibits include this Farallon lighthouse lens (right) and scrimshawed whale’s tooth (below).



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